



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

Administrative Office
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Bldg. 1, Room E-316
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 340-2305 Jennifer Bundy
(304) 340-2306 April Harless
(304) 558-4219 / TTY
(304) 558-1212 / FAX
Web Site: <http://www.state.wv.us/wvsca>
Information Services Division
Email: Jennifer.bundy@courtwv.gov
Email: April.harless@courtsww.gov

Justice Thomas McHugh to take oath of office

For immediate release Monday, December 13, 2010

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Supreme Court Justice Thomas E. McHugh will take the oath of office for his new term at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16, in the Supreme Court Chamber.

Justice McHugh was elected to the Supreme Court on Nov. 2 to a two-year term. He previously was sitting by designation as Senior Status Justice, having been appointed on Sept. 1, 2008, to serve during the illness of Justice Joseph Albright, and he was reappointed on January 1, 2009, for the same purpose. After the death of Justice Albright on March 20, 2009, then-Chief Justice Brent Benjamin appointed him to serve in Justice Albright's position until the Governor named a replacement. On April 8, 2009, Governor Joe Manchin III appointed Justice McHugh to serve until the 2010 general election. At that time he was elected to complete Justice Albright's twelve-year term, which ends in 2012.

Justice McHugh previously was elected to the Court in 1980 and was re-elected to a second twelve-year term in 1992. He served as Chief Justice in 1984, 1988, 1992, 1995 and 1996. He retired on December 31, 1997. After his retirement, he practiced law in the Charleston law firm of Allen Guthrie McHugh and Thomas, where he was of counsel.

Justice McHugh was born in Charleston on March 26, 1936, and is a 1958 graduate of West Virginia University and a Distinguished Military Graduate, and he is a 1964 graduate of West Virginia University College of Law. In law school he was a member of the Order of Coif, a legal honorary, and was associate editor of the West Virginia Law Review. He served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army from 1958 to 1961.

He was a law clerk to West Virginia Supreme Court Justice Harlan Calhoun from 1966 to 1968. He was elected Judge in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County in 1974, re-elected in 1976, and served as chief circuit judge from 1974 to 1980.

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